

COUNCIL MINUTES

September 6, 2001

The City Council of the City of Mesa met in a Study Session in the lower level meeting room of the Council Chambers, 57 East 1st Street, on September 6, 2001 at 8:14 a.m.

COUNCIL PRESENT

Mayor Keno Hawker
Jim Davidson
Bill Jaffa
Dennis Kavanaugh
Pat Pomeroy
Claudia Walters
Mike Whalen

COUNCIL ABSENT

None

OFFICERS PRESENT

Mike Hutchinson
Barbara Jones

1. Review items on the agenda for the September 10, 2001 Regular Council Meeting.

All of the items on the agenda were reviewed among Council and staff with no formal action taken. There was specific discussion relative to the following items:

Vice Mayor Davidson declared a potential conflict of interest on agenda item 7b (Granting an Irrigation Easement to Salt River Project along McKellips Road) and said he would refrain from discussion/participation on this item.

Mayor Hawker, Councilmember Pomeroy and Councilmember Jaffa declared potential conflicts of interest on agenda item 8b (Amending various sections of the Mesa City Code relating to the downtown sign ordinance as recommended by the Downtown Development Committee and the General Development Committee) and said they would refrain from discussion/participation on this item.

Councilmember Whalen declared a potential conflict of interest on agenda item 9a (Z01-35 South of the southwest corner of Baseline Road and Vineyard Avenue) and agenda item 10a (Vineyard Plaza – (Council District 3) The 2100 block of South Vineyard 9 M1-PAD office lots) and said he would refrain from discussion/participation on these matters.

Mayor Hawker stated that agenda items 7a, 7b, 7d, 8b, 9a, 9b, 9c, 9f, 9i and 10a will be removed from the consent agenda.

2. Discuss and consider proposed City of Mesa League of Arizona Cities and Towns' 2002 Legislative Resolutions.

Government Relations Assistant Kevin Adam addressed the Council relative to this agenda item. Mr. Adam reported that the League of Arizona Cities and Towns' legislative resolutions will be formally adopted at the League's annual conference scheduled for October 23-26 in Yuma. Mr. Adam explained that the League's Resolutions Committee will meet prior to the conference to consider a preliminary list of submitted resolutions from member communities.

Mayor Hawker requested that staff provide the Council with an update regarding the outcome of the resolutions which were submitted by the City during the 2001 legislative session.

Vice Mayor Davidson urged staff to consider the possibility of drafting a resolution which would prevent the Legislature from preempting the establishment of day labor centers in municipalities.

In response to a question from Councilmember Whalen, City Manager Mike Hutchinson advised that in the next few weeks, staff will seek policy direction from the Council relative to Mesa's building codes and input will be provided by representatives of the City's Fire and Building Inspections Departments.

Mayor Hawker urged the Council to attend the League's preconference meeting on September 28, 2001 at the Rendezvous Center.

It was moved by Councilmember Kavanaugh, seconded by Vice Mayor Davidson, that the proposed City of Mesa League of Arizona Cities and Towns' 2002 Legislative Resolutions be approved.

Carried unanimously.

3. Discuss and consider issues associated with the FAA Northwest 2000 Plan.

Assistant Development Services Manager Jeff Martin and Project Manager for Williams Gateway Airport Wayne Balmer addressed the Council relative to this agenda item. Mr. Martin reported on his and Mr. Balmer's recent attendance at a meeting comprised of representatives from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), the airline industry and various East Valley communities. He explained that the intended purpose of the gathering was to discuss the Community Consensus Alternative (CCA) and to garner feedback and technical direction from the FAA regarding the proposal.

Mr. Balmer referred to graphics displayed in the Council Chambers and provided a brief synopsis of the CCA proposal. He also outlined a variety of concerns expressed by the FAA relative to the CCA's proposed modifications to the DBACK STAR arrival route. Mr. Balmer added that it was also the recommendation of airline representatives that the ST. JOHNS departure route remain unchanged.

Mr. Balmer expressed disappointment with regard to the FAA's lack of positive feedback relative to the CCA proposal, especially in light of the East Valley communities' efforts to conduct public comment meetings to garner input relative to the proposed increase in aircraft overflights in the area.

Mr. Balmer stated that it is staff's recommendation that the East Valley communities proceed forward with the submission of the CCA to the FAA by the September 10, 2001 deadline. Mr. Balmer added that two letters have been drafted for Council's review and input.

Mr. Martin advised the Council that representatives of the airline industry considered the CCA "inconvenient," based on the fact the proposal was presented at the eleventh hour and because the FAA design team had previously established the sector boundaries for flight arrival routes prior to drafting the Initial Environmental Assessment. He noted that when the FAA representatives were asked why they had granted a 45-day extension to solicit public comment and Council input when it appears that a final decision has already been reached, he was assured that the CCA proposal would be given full consideration.

Councilmember Kavanaugh voiced disappointment for the tone of the meeting and emphasized that it is imperative that the Phoenix airspace redesign provide a safe environment for air travelers, pilots and the airline industry, and that the surrounding communities are not adversely impacted.

Councilmember Jaffa concurred with Councilmember Kavanaugh's comments. He expressed frustration that at the recent public comment meetings, the FAA officials did not address citizen concerns regarding this issue. Councilmember Jaffa provided input regarding a number of changes to the draft letters.

Vice Mayor Davidson stated the opinion that the CCA is the direct result of the lack of FAA-sponsored public hearings for Mesa and other East Valley communities regarding the FAA's proposed Alternative 3.

Councilmember Walters offered suggestions regarding the draft letters. She also spoke in support of urging the FAA to accept additional input relative to the CCA beyond the September 10, 2001 deadline.

Councilmember Pomeroy voiced support for the CCA and noted that if the FAA rejects the proposal, it should be based on flight safety concerns and not the fact that the proposal is "inconvenient."

Mayor Hawker emphasized the importance of engaging in further discussions with the FAA to resolve the matter of the realignment of the northern boundary of Sector 38 to accommodate the CCA's proposed modification to the DBACK STAR. Mayor Hawker added that by virtue of the fact the FAA granted a 45-day extension for the purpose of obtaining citizen and community input, it would be appropriate for the FAA to consider the dialogue/suggestions garnered through such a process. Mayor Hawker stated that the City of Scottsdale has considered requesting that the FAA grant a two-week extension to further address the Sector 38 matter and noted that he would support such a request.

Mr. Balmer clarified that City staff is requesting a two-week extension from the FAA to develop an addendum to the draft letter which would address the proposed modifications to the DBACK STAR. He stressed that it is the goal of all the East Valley communities to resolve this issue in an equitable and positive manner.

Mayor Hawker urged staff to provide the Council with any updates/input which are received with regard to the draft letters.

4. Appointments to boards and committees.

Mayor Hawker recommended the following appointment to Boards and Committees:

FRIENDS OF THE TONTO

Virginia Healey

It was moved by Councilmember Pomeroy, seconded by Councilmember Kavanaugh, that the Council concur with the Mayor's recommendation and the appointment be confirmed.

Carried unanimously.

5. Acknowledge receipt of minutes of various boards and committees.

- a. Downtown Development Committee meeting held August 16, 2001.
- b. Historic Preservation Committee meeting held August 9, 2001.

It was moved by Vice Mayor Davidson, seconded by Councilmember Kavanaugh, that receipt of the above-listed minutes be acknowledged.

Carried unanimously.

6. Hear reports on meetings and/or conferences attended.

Due to time constraints, this item was continued until the September 10, 2001 Study Session.

7. Scheduling of meetings and general information.

City Manager Mike Hutchinson stated that the meeting schedule is as follows:

Monday, September 10, 2001, 3:15 p.m. – General Development Committee Meeting

Monday, September 10, 2001, TBA – Executive Session

Monday, September 10, 2001, TBA – Study Session

Monday, September 10, 2001, 5:45 p.m. – Regular Council Meeting

Thursday, September 13, 2001, 7:30 a.m. – Study Session

8. Prescheduled public opinion appearances.

There were no prescheduled public opinion appearances.

9. Items from citizens present.

There were no items from citizens present.

10. Adjournment.

Without objection, the Study Session adjourned at 9:10 a.m.

KENO HAWKER, MAYOR

ATTEST:

BARBARA JONES, CITY CLERK

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Study Session of the City Council of Mesa, Arizona, held on the 6th day of September 2001. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

BARBARA JONES, CITY CLERK

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